

is nevertheless one of the most delicate with which the executive is charged. I regard it as a sacred trust, to be exercised with the sole view of advancing the interest and happiness of the people of the commonwealth. It shall be my effort to elevate the standard of official employment, by selecting for place under Executive appointment, individuals fitted for the posts to which they are assigned, by their known or properly represented integrity, efficiency and virtues. That mistakes will occur is to be expected; and unfortunate selections may be made, notwithstanding the greatest care. In such cases the right to remove will be unhesitatingly exercised; and neglect of duty, malfeasance or unfitness in office will not be tolerated.

Finally, gentlemen, you may count upon whatever assistance, or information may lie in my power to aid your labors; and you may rely upon my unceasing effort, in compliance with the oath I have taken, to see faithfully executed the laws you shall pass for the prosperity and furtherance of the public interest. To that work during the short time allotted to your sessions, let us address, ourselves at once and with energy: and with a reliance upon the Supreme Governor of all, without whose assistance and blessing, and continued care, nations, as well as individuals, labor in vain.